

## Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic module for live connection  
2 with a computer system, comprising:  
a power line for receiving power from the computer system and powering a load  
4 of the electronic module;  
a ground line;  
6 an input/output line; and  
a switch element coupled to said power line and said ground line between said  
8 power line and the load, wherein said switch element disables said power line until said  
ground line is coupled to a ground of the computer system.

2. (Original) The electronic module of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a power connector for coupling said power line to the computer system;  
a ground connector for coupling said ground line to the computer system; and  
4 an input/output connector for coupling said input/output line to the computer  
system;  
6 wherein said connectors have substantially uniform lengths.

3. (Currently Amended) The electronic module of claim 2, wherein  
2 said switch element is a solid-state switch comprising:  
a first source coupled to said power connector;  
4 a first gate coupled to said ground line; and  
a first drain coupled to the load;  
6 wherein the solid-state switch is non-conducting until said ground line is coupled  
to a ground reference of the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic module with non-staggered  
2 connectors, comprising:  
a power connector configured to couple a first load ~~internal circuit~~ of the  
4 electronic module to an interface power source;

a ground connector configured to couple a ground line of the electronic module to  
6 the interface; and

a switch, positioned inline between said power connector and said first load,  
8 wherein said switch is configured to electrically isolate said first load ~~internal circuit~~ until  
said ground connector is coupled to the interface;

10 wherein each of said power connector and said ground connector are of  
substantially uniform lengths.

5. (Original) The electronic module of claim 4, further comprising:  
2 an input/output connector configured to couple an input/output line of the  
electronic module to the interface;  
4 wherein said input/output connector is of said uniform length.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic module of claim 4, further  
2 comprising:  
a logic voltage connector configured to couple a second load ~~internal circuit~~ of the  
4 electronic module to the interface;  
wherein said logic voltage connector is of said uniform length.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ensuring multiple electrical  
2 connections are completed to an interface module in a predetermined order, comprising:  
a gate configured to be coupled to a ground reference of the interface module;  
4 a source configured to be coupled to a voltage source of the interface module; and

a drain coupled to a load;  
6        wherein the apparatus is positioned inline electrically between the voltage source  
      and the load; and  
8        wherein the apparatus is non-conducting, and said drain is isolated from said  
source, until said gate is coupled to the ground reference.

12.     (Currently Amended)        A computing device, comprising:  
2        a processor;  
      a memory; and  
4        a hot swappable component, comprising:  
          a power input configured to receive power, for powering a component  
6        load, from the computing device through a power connector;  
          a ground configured to receive a ground reference from the computing  
8        device through a ground connector; and  
          a switch configured to isolate said power input from the a-component load  
10       until said ground is coupled to the ground reference;  
          wherein said switch is positioned between said power input and the  
12       component load.

13.     (Original)        The computing device of claim 12, wherein said power  
2        connector and said ground connector are of substantially identical lengths.

14.     (Original)        The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot  
2        swappable component further comprises:  
          an input/output line configured to provide information from the component to the  
4        computing device through an input/output connector;  
          wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said input/output  
6        connector are of substantially identical lengths.

15.     (Original)        The computing device of claim 12, wherein the hot  
2        swappable component further comprises:

a logic voltage input configured to receive logic voltage from the computing  
4 device through a logic voltage connector;  
wherein said power connector, said ground connector, and said logic voltage  
6 connector are of substantially identical lengths.

16. (Original) The computing device of claim 12, wherein said switch is a  
2 field effect transistor comprising:  
a gate configured to be coupled to the ground reference;  
4 a source configured to be coupled to the power input; and  
a drain coupled to the component load;  
6 wherein said field effect transistor is non-conducting until said gate is coupled to  
the ground reference.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of connecting a hot swappable  
2 module to an interface of a computing device, comprising:  
receiving a first voltage from the computing device through a first voltage  
4 connector of the module, wherein said first voltage connector is electrically separated  
from a load of the module by a switch;  
6 receiving a ground reference from the computing device through a ground  
connector of the module;  
8 until said ground reference is received, isolating said first voltage connector from  
the a-load of the module; and  
10 when said ground reference is received, enabling electrical conductivity between  
said first voltage connector and the load.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said first voltage  
2 connector and said ground connector are of substantially the same length.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a  
2 digital input/output connection from the computing device through an input/output  
connector.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving a  
2 second voltage from the computing device through a second voltage connector of the  
module.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein one of said first voltage  
2 and said second voltage is Vcc.

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